

Problem with sed – It misinterprets | (pipe).

Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/SunManagers/2005-05/0448.html>

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To: Sun Mangers <sunmanagers@sunmanagers.org>

Dear all Sed madmen,

I'm trying to write something that sets the encrypted field in the shadow file to *LK*, but sed will choke whenever the field has a / in it, so I wrote something to nest sed inside sed with cut so that it replaces instances of / with \

However, sed chokes when interpreting the |. I have tried putting ' and ` in all the places I can think of, but it usually makes it worse.

Cut the encrypted password out and then get gsed to replace the / with \, which work fine.

Cat shadow.t

```
GogunE:ndY3rmE/bkxt.:12180:.....
```

```
echo `cut -d: -f2 shadow.t`|gsed -s 's/\|\\|/g'
```

What it correctly produces,

```
ndY3rmE\bkxt.
```

Finally I use gsed to replace the earlier output with *LK*.

```
gsed -e 's/`echo `cut -d: -f2 shadow.t`|gsed -s  
's/\|\\|/g`'\|*LK\|*' <shadow.t
```

Then it chokes,

```
./test: syntax error at line 1: `|' unexpected
```

Regards, S.

PS. I'm sorry that this is not Sun specific, but I think that there are plenty of sed users in the audience, but I've been at this for the past 5 hours and am starting to doubt my sanity.

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ISG/Gemini/AURA

sunmanagers mailing list

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